



St. Anne Province Center
Melbourne, Kentucky
December 29, 2025

SISTER ROSE MARY RIZZO

was called into eternal life.

Born January 12, 1930, in Covington, Kentucky, Sister Rose Mary Rizzo, formerly Sr. Charles Elizabeth entered eternal life on December 27, 2025, at Holy Family Home. She was ninety-five years old and a professed member of the Congregation of Divine Providence for seventy-eight years.

Rose Mary was the second of nine children born to Edgar and Florence Fugazzi Rizzo. She is preceded in death by her brothers Pete, Anthony and Frank and her sisters Therese Ward and Rita Haigis. She is survived by her sister Mary Hoffman, her brothers Rev. John, and Victor and numerous nieces and nephews.

Since her grade school days at St. Thomas School in Ft. Thomas, Sr. Rose Mary was well acquainted with and admired the Sisters of Divine Providence. At age 13 ½ on September 19, 1943, she walked up the steps to ring the bell at St. Anne Convent and join the candidates. She made her first profession of vows on August 29, 1947, and final vows on August 29, 1952.

Sr. Rose Mary began her years of service as an elementary teacher in 1947 at St. Bernard School, Dayton, KY. For the next forty years, she taught elementary school at St. John's, Dry Ridge, OH from 1953 to 1960, at St. Michael's, Kalida, OH from 1960 to 1967, at St. Joseph School, Camp Springs, KY from 1967 to 1970, at St. Louis School, Clarksville, MD from 1970 to 1973, at St. Leo School in Versailles, KY from 1974 to 1974, at St. Camillus Academy in Corbin, KY from 1974 to 1981, at St. Michael School in Wheeling, WV from 1981 to 1983, and at St. Agatha Academy in Winchester, KY from 1983 to 1987. In 1987 and for the next ten years, she served at Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission in Kayenta, AZ, where she provided pastoral ministry to the mostly Native American parishioners of the Navajo tribe. She returned to St. Anne Convent in Melbourne, KY in 1997 and coordinated transportation for sisters until 2012. For two years she lived in Covington visiting and praying with residents at a local senior residence. She retired to Holy Family Home in 2014, where she kept busy serving in the community and in the garden.

Sr. Rose Mary was a kind and helpful sister, always finding little jobs to do for others. She loved to be outdoors, riding her bicycle to the garden to plant or weed. Well into her 80's, she could be found in our apple trees busy harvesting apples! She cleverly composed a little booklet to tell a story of an event of rescuing a goat while she was in Arizona. Her smile, her kindness and her friendly manner touched many people she interacted with over the years.

In her reflection on the occasion of her 50th jubilee, she wrote that "she would like to be remembered as someone who could simply say, "Jesus" and let the sentiments of love, faith and trust fill my soul and overflow to the caller at the door."

In thanksgiving for our dear Sr. Rose Mary and for her witness as a kind and loving woman of Providence and as a woman of prayer, compassion, and dedicated service throughout her religious life, particularly as an educator, let us entrust her to the care of our Provident God.

United in God's gracious Providence,

Sr. Barbara Rohe, CDP
Provincial

Mass of Resurrection: January 3, 2026
Immaculate Conception Chapel, Melbourne

Burial will be at a later date in the Convent Cemetery, Melbourne, Kentucky because Sr. Rose Mary donated her body to science research.